

Item 25-0044: Request to approve the Preliminary 2025-2026PY (Program Year) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Partner Allocations as specified in the attached documents

Community Development Committee

Wed, Feb 12, 2025 4:30PM

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 01:04

Moving on to our public hearing and appearances 25-0043, Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, notice of funding available and community needs for the 2025 program year (April 1 of '25 through March 31 of '26) associated with action item 25-0044. This is a public hearing. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? This is a public hearing. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? And one more time for good measure, this is a public hearing. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? There being none, I will close that public hearing, and we'll move on to our action items.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 01:46

The associated action item is 25-0044 request to approve the preliminary 2025-26 program year Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, community partner allocations as specified in the documents on the agenda. Do I have a motion?

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 02:02

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 02:03

Second.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 02:04

We have a motion and a second. Would staff like to start with this? Community development specialist Galyon. District Two? All right, you're live, Olivia.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 02:18

Hi. So, we have our Community Development Block Grant allocation recommendations—preliminary recommendations—for our external allocations today. So, as a reminder, we receive our—or we start our CDBG allocation process, or in the fall. So, we started it back in August or so of 2024 and we have a three-step process. First, we start with our core city programs that we regularly fund. Then we move on to city department application portion, and then finally, we have our external application portion. All external applicants are required to take pre application training prior to submitting their applications, and they had about six weeks to submit the application once it was released to organizations that completed the training.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 03:10

We received six applications, one of which was deemed ineligible because of restrictions that we have on the amount of funding that we can give for certain activity types. That application was for a public service project which we are restricted at 15% of our overall allocation, and we already had a city project that had been allocated that would be receiving the Public Service dollars, or the sum that we expect.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 03:38

So, from there, after we received those applications back. City staff reviewed them for eligibility and determined that the five remaining applications were all eligible to be reviewed by our CDBG advisory board. And so, they went to the advisory board for, again, about a month, a month and a half, for them to review and score the applications. And then the advisory board came together on January 28 in an open public meeting to discuss the applications and create preliminary application recommendations based on, you know, their readings of the applications and concerns in the community, all that kind of stuff.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 04:20

So, we had \$145,000 available from our overall allocation process to award to external applications. And as you can see on our chart, we received requests totaling \$481,500, so quite a bit more in requests from external applicants than we had to give. But our CDBG advisory board worked well within the restrictions that we had to create kind of a balance of their funding recommendations. So, I'll just kind of quickly go over where they had come up with those—or what the recommendation they came out to were. And then, yeah, if you have any questions, I'll take them from there.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 05:04

So, they recommended First Five Fox Valley have \$25,000 of funding, and they had originally requested \$75,000. Greater Fox City

[There was an issue with the microphones that they needed to fix.]

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 05:35

Okay, so continuing. Greater Fox Cities area Habitat for Humanity, requested \$240,000 and the advisory board's preliminary recommendation was \$50,000. The pillars requested \$36,500 and the preliminary recommendation matched that. Rebuilding Together Fox Valley requested \$100,000 and the preliminary recommendation was \$33,500. And then WWBIC requested \$30,000 and the preliminary recommendation was \$0 for that, totaling \$145,000.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 05:35

We're good.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 05:42

And again, these are all preliminary recommendations. Once we receive our final actual allocation from HUD, we will bring back these adjusted recommendations to CDC—Com Dev committee and Common Council for final approval of the recommendations. And then also just a note on that, that at the Advisory Board meeting, the advisory board members agreed that any adjustments we needed to make could be made on a proportional basis. So, you know, they would all go up 2% in funding if we got a certain percent increase or decrease in a similar manner, so that there's, you know, equality across the amount that they're changing for each organization. So just wanted to note that as well.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 07:01

Thank you, Olivia. And kudos to everyone who was involved in the CDBG advisory board. That's a lot of work and a lot of homework. So pleased that everybody took the time and really put some effort into that. Any questions and thoughts? Aldersperson Jones.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 07:17

Just wanted to follow up, if you look at the requested amount and then the preliminary funding recommendation, they're all pretty much lower than expected. But there is one that was fully funded. Did you want to explain why we did that? Or do you want—?

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 07:31

Yeah, I can touch on that. So, the Pillars' request, as mentioned, is the one that was fully recommend, recommended at a funding amount that was equal to what was requested. The big piece of that really is that it was—so the Pillars request is for replacement of the flooring at their adult shelter which is a critical component of being able to offer homeless services to people in the community, and it reduces the city's burden of offering those services. Knowing that we're able to keep the shelter open and have that resources without further burdening the city, was a really big piece of why I believe that one was funded. Additionally, it was mentioned that shelter problems can be—or shelter specific projects can be difficult to fund in a way that some other homelessness services aren't necessarily a challenge to fund. So that was kind of another piece of that as well.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 08:28

Thank you.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 08:30

Thank you. Anyone else have any—oh, Alderson Smith.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 08:32

Yeah, so that \$588,232 is a projected amount at this point. It's based on our previous five years' allocations. This, this current CDBG, year 2024, we received \$590,000 in funding. Typically, we get somewhere between a one to 3% increase, but we have decreased before as well. So that's why we use a five-year average, just to, you know, keep it a little bit more conservative in our estimate there.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 08:32

Thank you. I just—I have a question about the money. The larger award—the \$588,000 does that exist somewhere? Has it been sent out or just, you know, how—what is the process for that being received and us knowing that full amount, and like, is it somewhere? Is it sitting somewhere as of now?

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 09:25

That funding at this point, I don't believe the budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development has been passed yet. That would be if it gets passed in March—once that continuing resolution expires, then that—there could be the potential for it to be passed then. But we just don't know that exact situation yet. But I will say, typically, we receive our allocation amount from HUD somewhere between February to March or February to May. But it really just depends on when that final budget by the Federal Government is passed, and then how long it takes them from there to get the allocation out to us.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 10:06

We are an entitlement community, though, for our Community Development Block Grant funds, which means, as long as we follow all of the HUD requirements, which we do, we will receive our allocation, and it's based on a formula, so we wouldn't expect major changes to this amount. It could just fluctuate some depending on where their budget comes in at once it's passed.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 10:28

Thank you.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 10:29

Any other questions or concerns? Oh, Deputy Director Kress, what are you there?

Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development) 10:38

Thank you, Chair. If you would be open to entertaining the possibility for Kim Massey from WWBIC showed up just a couple minutes late. Did miss the public hearing. Just wanted to express some gratitude on behalf of WWBIC. So, if you're open to it, she had wanted to just address—

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 10:52

I am indeed. You can approach the podium and speak if you wish. I just need your name and affiliation for the record, please.

[Aldersperson Hartzheim turned the microphone on.]

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 11:08

There you go.

Kimberly Massey (Northeast Regional Director - WWBIC) 11:09

Thank you. Yeah. Thank you so much. So, Kim Massey, I'm the regional director for WWBIC, which for us, that includes about 17 different counties. We have an office here in Appleton with three staff. So, the—what I wanted to do, just because I know what the CDBG funding we received in the past, but just really wanted to extend gratitude, because we believe relationships matter, and as you listed down that the list of those that received very grateful. They're great organizations. So, the—I just wanted to say thank you again, and just let you know that we're still here in the community helping individuals and small business owners, entrepreneurs, start, explore, run their business, and we'll still continue to do that good work. And then just to point out some of the businesses that WWBIC has supported, which is like Bowl 91, Amber Lulu now Eco Candle. So just to let you know again, this—we know the strength in the small business, right? They're vital to the local, national level, independent thinkers and those starting their businesses. So again, just wanted to call that out and just express our gratitude and just know that we'll continue to do our good work of providing responsible financial products and quality training and even doing some other work with the Downtown Appleton group, just and some of the downtown businesses. So again, I know when these things come up, and it depending on if you receive funding or not, but I just want to let you know that we're grateful.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 12:39

Thank you very much. I hope that in the future that—well, first of all, I hope that the staff has been, you know, welcoming and explaining to you where we've gotten to and that you will apply again in the future.

Kimberly Massey (Northeast Regional Director - WWBIC) 12:50

No, you really have. So again just want to really, just, and that was it, to really, thank you. And I even know some of the work that we're doing is we even go into different organizations, like Pillars, the United Way, and they really do—and Rawhide, so any further out—but they really do invite us in to just talk about entrepreneurship. So again, as we go through—the ones that do receive funding, we can—we still are a partner in all this and just want to thank you.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 13:12

Excellent. Thank you. Are there any other questions or concerns from anyone else present? All right, there being none, let's move on to a vote then, please. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. And that's five to zero.